

SINGAPORE

Higher Education

Pre-university and post-secondary studies

In Singapore, there are various forms of post-secondary/high school studying opportunities. Junior Colleges and Centralized Institutes are designed for students who plan to get a local university degree.

Polytechnics on the other hand are for students who would like to enter the workforce, but sometimes also have programs that prepare students for university studies.

Junior college

Junior colleges in Singapore were initially designed to offer an accelerated alternative to the traditional three-year program, but in recent years the two-year program has become the norm for students pursuing university education.

Centralized Institute

A Centralized Institute provides a three-year course leading up to a GCE "A" level examination. Only Centralized Institutes offer the Commerce Stream with subjects such as Principles of Accounting and Management of Business. The standard of teaching and curriculum is identical to that of the Junior Colleges.

Polytechnics

Polytechnics in Singapore provide 3-year diploma courses. They accept students based on their GCE "O" level, GCE "A" level or Institute of Technical Education (ITE) results. Polytechnics offer a wide range of courses in various fields, including engineering, business studies, accountancy, tourism and hospitality management, mass communications, digital media and biotechnology. There are also specialized courses such as marine engineering, nautical studies, nursing, and optometry. They provide a more industry-oriented education as an alternative to junior colleges for post-secondary studies. On average, about 40% of each 4th year Secondary School cohort enrolls in Polytechnics.

Vocational education

Institute of Technical Education

The [Institute of Technical Education](#) (ITE) accepts students based on their GCE "O" level or GCE "N" level results and they provide 2-year courses leading to a locally recognized "National ITE Certificate." There are three ITE Colleges in Singapore. A few ITE graduates continue their education at polytechnics and universities.

There are also other skills certification through part-time apprenticeship courses conducted jointly by ITE and industrial companies.

Universities

Singapore has six national universities, namely the [National University of Singapore](#), [Nanyang Technological University](#), [Singapore Management University](#), [Singapore University of Technology & Design](#), [Singapore Institute of Technology](#) and [SIM University](#).

The National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University each have more than 30,000 students and provide a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs including doctoral degrees. Both are also established research universities with thousands of research staff and graduate students. As of 2015, both universities are ranked among the Top 13 in the world by QS World University Rankings and Top 55 globally by THE World University Rankings.

A third university, Singapore Management University (SMU), opened in 2000, is home to more than 7,000 students and comprises six Schools offering undergraduate, graduate, and PhD programs in Business Management, Accountancy, Economics, Information Systems Management, Law and the Social Sciences. The University has an Office of Research, a number of institutes and centers of excellence, and provides public and customized programs for working professionals through its Office of Executive and Professional Education.

The fourth university, privately run SIM University (UniSIM), opened in 2005. The university currently admits only part-time students and offers part-time degree programs to working adults. In 2012, the government granted UniSIM a national university status and plans are ongoing to expand the university with offering of new full-time degree programs.

Two other public institutions are also sponsored by the government: the Singapore University of Technology and Design and the Singapore Institute of Technology. Many private universities exist, including foreign universities which have established campuses in Singapore such as the [Chicago Business School](#) and [Technische Universität München](#).

The [James Cook University Singapore](#), [University of Adelaide](#), [Southern Cross University](#) University of New Brunswick, [Queen Margaret University](#), [Temple University](#), [The City University of New York](#), [Baruch College](#), [University of Nevada, Las Vegas](#), [Aventis School of Management](#), [Curtin University of Technology](#) & [University of Wales Institute, Cardiff](#) have established offshore campuses in Singapore to provide local and foreign (in particular, Asian) students the opportunity to obtain a Western university education at a fraction of the cost it would take to study in Canada, the UK, the USA or Australia. [University of New Brunswick College, Singapore](#), [Queen Margaret University, Asia Campus](#), [NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Asia](#) began operations in Singapore between 2007 and 2008, now joined by the [Curtin University of Technology Singapore Campus](#).